What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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Newsletter #209:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! Can you believe that it is already October? I certainly can't and especially because yesterday we had 80 degree weather! Not entirely uncommon at the end of September/early October but rare for sure. In any case here we are knee-deep in auction season. There are a lot of great auctions on the horizon so I'll try to step up my newsletter game in the coming weeks as more sales are reported.

Establishment of the S&S Library
I recently opened the S&S Library with a client/good friend/collector. This shared library is the culmination of an 8-year collaboration. When I left my father's established business and well-formed library, I found that I had nothing in the way of references. Now what numismatist can really survive without some semblance of a library whether it be virtual or in paper form? So I went to work buying books with mine and my customer's generosity. After 8 years we now have over 6,000 volumes. In addition, I am happy to announce that we have purchased the BCD catalog library. This will be the ultimate "cherry on top" to help our library become one of the best privately held numismatics libraries in the world. We are continually adding to our library with new publications and filling in the holes with older books. Additionally, we are working with a local book binder and repairing old bindings to properly conserve our library. If you haven't checked out the small video that the NNP recently produced please do. It was before we changed our name to the S&S Library (shout out to Len and Lianna for doing a tremendously good job).

Collaboration: S&S Library and Newman Numismatic Portal
I'm happy to announce that the S&S Library and the NNP have started a long awaited collaboration. It was over 2 years in the making but with the persistence of yours truly and Len Augsberger we made it happen. Starting next week the NNP will begin to digitize the ancient, world and U.S. books from the S&S Library. Please note this will NOT include the BCD Library which will be dealt with in another matter down the road. That will remain a privately held library for the moment. So why do this? Well, we at the S&S Library want to have a fully digitized library so we can be anywhere and still access our books. NNP can put up books that are out of copyright and hold ones back that are in copyright. Once a copyright is over then the books can be put up on the portal. I leave

library after this but now we know we don't have to fret if we are overseas and a book we need isn't at our finger tips.

Upcoming Auctions
There are fantastic sales coming up in October and November. Here is a preview.

Obolos 29 (8 October)
Our friends at Nomos is holding their web sale Obolos 29 on October 8. The sale is comprised of 854 lots of mostly ancient coins with a smattering Islamic and world. The largest segment of the auction is focussed on Roman provincial coinage (106 lots). Nomos is offering some nice fractions on the heels of their very popular Spring sale. These are not from the Berend collection but some do have pedigrees. I understand that the next part of that sale will come the larger Nomos live sale in November. They aren't showing it quite yet as I think they want to finish their websale first in order to not cannibalize this auction. I noticed a nice Alexander AV stater but it was already rather strong at 4600 CHF (the estimate is 3000 CHF). Lot 118 is a reasonably priced and pedigreed tetradrachm of Perseus. Lot 325 is a pretty archaic stater from Side. For those that collect Armenian coins, there are several lots to choose from. Lot 444 is a rather decent example of Cleopatra VII. These typically do not come in wonderful condition and this one is reasonable (right now) and has a well struck image of her face. Lot 650 is a budget "eyes to G-d" portrait of Constantius II. It has a flan crack so is obviously fragile but is affordable. At the end of the sale are some large lots.

I will be participating in this sale and not viewing for obvious reasons. Please get in touch if you need my help.

Gorny & Mosch 297-298 (9-11 October)
My friends at G&M have a three day (and three catalog) sale coming right up in a few days. I'm sorry for the late reporting but it is hard to keep up! Part 1 is a collection from a collector named Klaus Grigo. If you want to read about Klaus it is possible with English or German at the beginning of the catalog. G&M has sweetened the collection by making this catalog a hard cover. Good for a numismatic library. The entire collection is Bactrian with many rarely seen rulers within the pages. The collector bought mostly privately as is evidenced by the lack of pedigrees. For those pedigree conscious folks this does not mean that he didn't buy these coins 20+ years ago. It simply means that auction houses and dealers offered him coins prior to puting them in auction. Roma Numismatics had a lot of these types in previous sales that hammered for far more than their estimates in G&M. For example, lot 121, a tetradrachm of Sophytes, is a rarity and simply an outstanding type. It has a very reasonable estimate right now. There are also the didrachm, drachm and fractions of the same type that are being made available. Some lots like lot 330, there are only a few examples known. If you manage to get a copy of the catalog and are interested in Bactrian this is a keeper. It is a nice collection put together over time. If you bid through me please request a hard cover copy. I will request more depending on customer needs. If you don't bid through me and want to have a copy just give G&M a call or write an email. I'm sure they will oblige.

Part 2 is not one collection but presumably a variety of consignors. There are some nice pedigrees to be found if you pay attention.

Part 3 starts with a nice group of bracteate coins from medieval times then continues with later German coinage. There also are a few Jewish medals within the catalog.

I plan to participate in the auction so please get in touch soon should you need help. I

Leu Numismatik Auction 14 (14 October)
When I think of Leu web sales I get extremely nervous. I'm sorry Yves and crew at Leu but you all are killing me with these 7,000++ sales of ancient coins. I'm happy to report that this Leu LIVE sale is a mere 350 coins. This reminds me to the days of old when we had realistic sales that didn't last all night! What Leu excels at is providing indepth information on their consignors. Most of this catalog is courtesy of the Dr. Stephen Coffman collection. For those that want to read more about him click here.

There are 85 coins from Axumite. For those unfamiliar, The Kingdom of Axum is located in Northern Africa.

NAC 140-141 (7 November)
NAC will conduct their 140th and 141st sale on November 7 with two smaller, but powerful collections. The first, the 140, is the continuation of the Sheik Al Thani's collection in its 6th iteration. I say the name of the collector versus writing out the name of the catalog since everyone pretty much knows who the collector is. I'm not letting the proverbial "cat out of the bag". There are 194 glorious lots with many five figure pieces. This sale reminds me very much to the recently executed Morton & Eden sale. Lots of lovely examples, high relief, pristine surfaces and pedigrees that make you go gaga. For those that wanted to bid on the Naxos tetradrachms in M&E will get another chance in this sale. Lots 27 and 28 are both primo examples with the added benefit of coming from the comtesse de Béhague collection (auctioned previously in the Vinchon sale of 1984). Besides being a notable collector and a woman (which is in short supply in this industry), she had a great eye for what is nice. Lot 34 is stunning tetradrachm of Eukleidas from Syracuse. It comes from the select few pieces of the Kunstfreund collection that was auctioned off in 1974 in a collaboration with Bank Leu and M&M. For those unfamiliar, please note that Gillet (Mr. Kunstfreund "lover of art" in German) had a vast collection. You might be led to believe that something is a Kunstfreund coin but unless it was in the 1974 catalog WITH a catalog number it was just in his collection. This is not to say it isn't part of his larger collection and there is a photofile to prove it. That said, a coin from the actual sale is worth far more in my eyes as it made the very select pieces worthy of that monumental auction. Lot 47 is not the most attractive of portraits but it is exceedingly rare and very desirable. A coins from Amphipolis that hails from the Hermitage museum and was part of the Gillet collection (hence part of his wider collection). Lot 59, a tetradrachm from Paonia under the King Bastareous, is an extremely rare type that never comes along. It was also part of the de Béhague collection and has an established find date of 1880. Lot 106 could be my favorite coin in the entire sale. This is also a Kunstfreund select coin from the 1974 sale (lot 365) and goes back to the Hoffman sale of 1890! It was in the collection of Photiades Pacha (notice that Mary Lannin!). This cute little owl is amongst the earliest of the coinage from Athens. The famous Wappenmünzen. It is a stunning example of archaic excellence. Lot 127 is one of the finest known specimens from Phaestus. This tetradrachm goes back to the late 1800's with a pedigree to Sotheby's and was also in the famous Kunstfreund sale. Lot 144 is another Kunstfreund example. A beautiful gold stater from Troas, Abydus. NAC states that this is a unique piece.

Auction 141 is a small group of 103 Roman gold coins. The consignor remains anonymous in this sale. That said, the assembly of the group is structured and well pedigreed. There are several "heavy hitter" aureii in this sale. Many rare rulers with unimpeachable pedigrees. The highest estimated piece is lot 277, a beautiful facing portrait of the emperor Maxentius. This coin was from the Arras hoard of 1922 and was quickly scooped up by the dealer/auction house Ratto. They put it in their fixed priced

I will be viewing these coins in Zurich and bidding live on the floor. Please get in touch if you need help.

Coin of the Week

Roman Republic, . L. Julius Bursio, Rome, 85 BC
AR Denarius, 4.01g (21mm, 12).
Male head to right, with attributes of Apollo, Mercury and Neptune; Cupid standing to right (control symbol) behind / Victory driving quadriga to right, holding reins and wreath

Pedigree: From the LNB Collection of J Bursio Denarii; Ex Numismatica Varesi, Auction 29, 16 March 1999, lot 29.

References: Crawford 352/1c; De Ruyter obv. die 442; BMCRR Rome 2508 ff. var. (control symbol and number); RSC Julia 5a; BM 2002,0102.2693 (same dies)

Grade: Practically no wear and with pleasing luster. Off center strike on both faces, but all details on flan. Some weakness on reverse angel, crackling on edges. Small area of corrosion on r. edge of obverse. Lovely symbol of cupid on obverse. VF+/EF
Price: $425

rr1252

Buy Coin

interesting denarii.
In the die study conducted by P. H. De Ruyter, it was discovered that there are actually over 450 distinct obverse control marks. These are found to the left of the obverse male head and consist of a trident and second symbol. In the case of this particular coin, a small standing cupid. Since these obverse die marks are so small and the differences are extremely minor, their actually use is unknown. As such, they probably were not used to distinguish an individual die. A complication arises with the fact that a number of official obverse dies actually share the same control mark.
This particular coin is a die paring of obverse die 442 and reverse die LXV. At the time De Ruyter conducted his die study in 1996, there were only seven attested examples of this particular pairing. Only two have recently come to market.

Check out coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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